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Allegiances

Allegiances

NightClan

Leader: Duskstar sleek black tom with bright amber eyes

Deputy: Hailfoot dark gray tom with blue eyes
apprentice,
Dustpaw

Medicine cat: Ashpool white she-cat with purple eyes

Warriors:
Leechfur ginger she-cat
Darkflash light gray tabby tom with black patches
apprentice, Patchpaw
Willowflight dark ginger she-cat with pale green eyes
Flametooth brown tom with yellow eyes
Thornslash dark brown tom with amber eyes (father of Tigerblaze)
Harerunner light red tom with a dark red ear
Grayfoot white she-cat with gray feet
apprentice, Ryepaw
Tigerblaze dark brown tabby tom with blue eyes
Cloudstep dark gray she-cat

Queens:
Sorrelfur light brown tabby she-cat
Kits: Stormkit and Mousekit
Brightsun golden she-cat with amber eyes
Kits: Sunkit and Seedkit

Apprentices:
Dustpaw pale tom with a brown dappled pelt
Patchpaw white she-cat with bright golden patches and heather eyes
Ryepaw light brown tabby she-cat with green eyes

Elders:
Milkpelt cream she-cat
Nettlefoot black tom with huge white paws, formally the deputy

LightningClan

Leader: Brightstar white she-cat with a bright golden streak across her head

Deputy: Pinefur brown tom with amber eyes

Medicine Cat: Skyfeather pale she-cat with a gray leg
apprentice,
Mudpaw

Warriors:
Emberfur dark ginger tom
Petaltail cream she-cat with brilliant blue eyes
apprentice,
Icepaw
Foxfur ginger tabby she-cat (Emberfur's sister)
Applewillow black and white tom
Cricketchirp light gray tabby she-cat with pale green eyes
Cometsky dark gray she-cat with a dappled coat
Sandmuzzle dark brown she-cat with a paler muzzle
apprentice,
Turtlepaw
Voletuft black tom with green eyes

Queens:
Pebblesong silver tabby she-cat
Kits: Thistlekit and Jaykit
Amberfeather white she-cat with dark ginger patches
Kits: Swankit and Iciclekit
Fernpatch gray she-cat with black ears
Kits: Darkkit, Owlkit, and Snowkit

Apprentices:
Turtlepaw tortoiseshell she-cat with yellow eyes
Mudpaw white tom with splotches of dark brown
Icepaw small gray she-cat

Elders:
Falconfeather light brown tom with sharp claws
Frogheart brown and black she-cat

Cats Outside Clans:
Shorty black tom, a loner

Whiskers tabby tom with long
whiskers, a kittypet

Ruby short-haired she-cat, a loner

Shadowfrost black tom with amber eyes, a dark warrior (not from the clans)

Darkwind dark gray tabby she-cat, a dark warrior (Shadowfrost's enemy)

Sam golden tom with black spots, a kittypet

Hunter white tom with green eyes (allies with Darkwind)

Shade dark gray tabby tom (allies with
Darkwind)

Soap white tom with gray flecks, a loner

Prologue

"This forest isn't enough for both of us Darkwind!" Shadowfrost growled.

Darkwind hissed, and leaped at him again, slashing his muzzle.

Shadowfrost pounced on top of Darkwind, pinning her. "This forest only needs one dark warrior. I became the first. You were exiled, you will die!"

Shadowfrost was about to bite into her neck, but a dark gray tabby tom tackled him to the floor.

"Yes!" Darkwind mewed.

A white tom jumped from the trees. "Shall we get rid of him?" He asked.

Darkwind nodded. "Hunter and Shade, finish him."

Shade came closer to Shadowfrost. He got up.

Shadowfrost swiftly darted toward Shade and slashed open his throat. He ran his claws by Hunter's side.

Shadowfrost saw Darkwind rushing over to Shade's side. "Shade!" She cried.

Shadowfrost ran over to a tree. He climbed it gracefully and crouched at a thick branch.

Darkwind had known about medicines. "Here, Shade. These cobwebs will patch you up."
She wrapped them around Shade's neck.

Hunter stared into the trees. "He got away. He could be anywhere."

Shadowfrost jumped to another branch. "Fools... I need an ally to

get rid of them..."

Shadowfrost leapt from tree to tree, branch to branch. He caught sight of a dark brown tabby tom.

He was hunting. The tom ran across a log and killed the mouse. "More food for the clan!" He said proudly.

Shadowfrost narrowed his eyes. *This cat has to graceful move of a dark warrior.... He could be perfect*

"Hey Tigerblaze! Lets get this back to camp." Shadowfrost recognized the cats' voice.

It was Patchpaw. Shadowfrost's secret ally. Shadowfrost silently inspected the traits of Tigerblaze.

He knew this cats' father. It was Thornslash. He had almost killed Shadowfrost in a fight. Tigerblaze had looked exactly like him.

Thornslash was a dark warrior... he was my enemy before Darkwind... Hmm... Tigerblaze is a good choice.

Shadowfrost heard Darkwind. She was chasing him.

Shadowfrost jumped onto another branch. Leaves rustled.

Shadowfrost saw Darkwind close behind.

He thunk fast. He leaped out of the tree, darting into a rabbit hole.

He got a glimpse of Patchpaw. Tigerblaze spun around. "I heard something..." He whispered.

Patchpaw didn't want him to find out about the dark warriors. "Its nothing. We should feed this to the queens. Stormkit looked pretty hungry."

Tigerblaze sighed. "I suppose your right. I'll report this to Duskstar."

Patchpaw nodded, but she was concerned.

Shadowfrost realized Darkwind had found him.

She ran toward the hole. Shadowfrost started digging up the top.

Tunnels!

Shadowfrost kicked the earth and it started falling.

Cave-in!

Shadowfrost ran as fast as he could out the other side. When he got out, he shook the dirt off from his pelt.

He quickly climbed a tree, and perched there.

Darkwind came running. She looked around. "Fox-dung!" She growled.

Shadowfrost just barely slipped under Darkwind's claws. He chuckled and started leaping from tree to tree again.

Chapter 1 ~ Tigerblaze

Tigerblaze returned to camp. Patchpaw padded in behind him.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey may come beneath the DarkRock for a clan meeting." Duskstar called.

Tigerblaze dropped his fresh-kill on the pile and quickly padded into the clearing.

"Nettlefoot, you had served us for many moons but, you want to retire and go to the elders' den?" Duskstar asked.

Nettlefoot, NightClan's oldest senior warrior nodded. "I am ready to go to the elders' den."

Duskstar continued, "Then Nettlefoot, spend the rest of your days in the elders' den. May the clan take care of you for many moons."

Nettlefoot trotted into the elders' den, greeting Milkpelt.

"I will decide the new deputy. Cloudstep, Leechfur and Willowflight, we will decide the new deputy."

Tigerblaze sighed. "It would take them a long time to figure out who will be deputy. Its only sunhigh. Duskstar has to announce who is deputy before moonhigh."

"It should be Flametooth!" Dustpaw mewed.

"Hailfoot should be!" Patchpaw disagreed.

Ryepaw shook her head. "Darkflash!"

Tigerblaze came up to the apprentices. He knew he was only warrior for a half-moon. And he was friends with the apprentices for a long time.

Dustpaw and Patchpaw were going to be warriors sooner or later,

and Ryepaw was an apprentice two moons before he got his warrior name.

"Who knows who will be deputy." Tigerblaze meowed.

Ryepaw, and Patchpaw stared at Tigerblaze.

"This is an apprentice conversation!" Dustpaw growled.

Tigerblaze narrowed his eyes. "I was friends with you!" He growled.

Ryepaw gave him a dirty look. Dustpaw did the same.

Patchpaw gave him an apologetic look.

Tigerblaze understood, he padded away.

Mousekit was playing in the clearing with Seedkit.
Sorrelfur was basking in the sun.
Tigerblaze went to greet his mother.
"Sorrelfur," Tigerblaze mewed.

Sorrelfur opened her eyes, and stared at her son. "Hello Tigerblaze," she meowed.

"Mousekit and Stormkit are becoming apprentices in a quarter moon." Tigerblaze reminded Sorrelfur.

"They are? It seemed like they were a half-moon old just yesterday."

Stormkit tumbled out of the nursery, Sunkit behind him.

"I'm the leader, i'm Stormstar!" Stormkit mewled.

"I will be deputy, i'm Sunsky!"

Seedkit and Mousekit seemed that they wanted to play too, so they came over.
"I'll be Mouseclaw!" squealed Mousekit.

Seedkit thought for a bit, "I wanna be Seedspot!"

Tigerblaze jumped in front of the kits. "I'm a big bad fox! I'm going

to eat you up!"

Seedkit pounced on Tigerblaze's tail. Tigerblaze gently pushed Seedkit away.

Mousekit charged at Tigerblaze, tackling him in the belly.

Stormkit and Sunkit butted Tigerblaze together, and he fell to the ground.

All of the kits started climbing over him and batting him with their tiny paws.

"You killed me!" Tigerblaze mewed playfully.

Sorrelfur padded over to the kits. "Don't be so rough." She scolded.

"Okay Sorrelfur!" mewled the kits.

Tigerblaze licked his ruffled fur. He smoothed it down, and stood up.

He saw Duskstar padding toward him.

"Tigerblaze, I need to speak with you." He meowed.

"O-okay," Tigerblaze stammered.

He followed Duskstar under the DarkRock.

"The patrol had found scents on our side of the border. Tigerblaze, lead a raiding party to attack LightningClan. Choose any cat you want to take with you."

Tigerblaze only nodded, and said nothing more.

He trotted toward the ColdRock. Grayfoot and Harerunner were sharing tongues on it.

"Grayfoot, Harerunner, i'm taking you on a raiding party to LightningClan."

They both nodded. "So, who else is in this raid party?"

"Dustpaw, Ryepaw, Flametooth, Cloudstep, Thornslash, and Darkflash." He replied.

"Alright, lets get them." Harerunner said.

****

They reached the border. Tigerblaze crossed it, and broke into a run.

Cloudstep was on his tail, and Dustpaw was behind her.

Before he knew it, Tigerblaze crashed into a LightningClan warrior.

He recognized the black and white warrior. It was Applewillow.

He tackled him to the ground.

"Attack!" Brightstar yowled.

LightningClan warriors streamed out behind Brightstar.

Sandmuzzle had slashed Grayfoot's side.
Dustpaw was grappling with Turtlepaw nearby.

With all his might, Tigerblaze pushed Applewillow off of him.

He lunged at him, swiping at his muzzle.
Applewillow avoided it in time and slammed Tigerblaze to the ground.

Tigerblaze was about to be defeated. Suddenly, Thornslash dragged Applewillow away.

Tigerblaze ran up beside his father. They reared up and started swiping at Applewillow.

He was being beat up by two warriors! Tigerblaze went to finish him off, slicing his soft belly open.

Applewillow cried in pain, and retreated into the bushes.
Tigerblaze saw Dustpaw getting cornered.

Turtlepaw and Emberfur were towering over him.

Tigerblaze screeched with fury and barreled into Emberfur's side.

Dustpaw glared at Tigerblaze. "I don't need help!" He growled.

Turtlepaw tackled Dustpaw again.

Tigerblaze hurt Emberfur enough. Emberfur started bleeding on his chest. Blood gushed out, and made a small puddle of it on the ground.

Tigerblaze ran up and scratched his cheek.
Emberfur widened his eyes when Dustpaw took him down.

Emberfur's pelt glistened with blood when Dustpaw got off him.
"Dustpaw! He's dying!" Tigerblaze said.

Everyone in stopped fighting. Brightstar slowly padded to Emberfur's body.

"Get Skyfeather, now!" She ordered.

Cometsky and Petaltail darted and disappeared into the bushes.

Foxfur crouched beside her brother. "Emberfur!"

Dustpaw snorted. "Cowards, lets go."

Tigerblaze nodded. "We should leave."

Ryepaw came in next to Dustpaw. "Look! I only have a few scratches." She boasted.

Dustpaw looked at his own wounds, and blushed. "Yeah, I got pretty torn up. Turtlepaw was strong."

"Well, I fought off a warrior! Heh, i'm really strong."

Tigerblaze glanced at Foxfur. She was whispering to her brother.

Tigerblaze thought not to think about it. He ran up to Cloudstep.
"Dustpaw ended the battle." He said.

Cloudstep looked at him. "He did? Duskstar should consider him being a warrior." She mewed.

Tigerblaze agreed. "I'll tell him when we get back to camp."

****

The patrol came back.
"How did it go?" Duskstar asked.

"We won. Dustpaw was fighting like a warrior." Tigerblaze meowed.

"He should become warrior then."

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, may come beneath the DarkRock for a clan meeting."
Everyone came from their dens.

"We were victorious at the battle today. And an apprentice showed he deserved to be a warrior. Dustpaw, please step forward."

The dappled brown apprentice nervously came closer.

"Do you promise to uphold the warrior code and defend this clan at the cost of your life?" Duskstar asked.

"I do," replied Dustpaw.

"Then I call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this apprentice. Dustpaw, you will be known as Dustfang. NightClan honors your wits and boldness, we welcome you a full warrior of NightClan."

"Dustfang! Dustfang! Dustfang!" The clan cheered for its new warrior.

"You will sit vigil tonight. You will not speak until dawn." Duskstar growled.

Dustfang dipped his head. He padded next to Ryepaw and Patchpaw to boast about being warrior.

"Also, we are going to have a new deputy. Hailfoot is a loyal senior warrior. He will do good for the clan." Duskstar announced quickly.

Hailfoot bowed his head. "I will be a good deputy. I'm glad you chose me."

Duskstar nodded. "The meeting is over."

Tigerblaze went to the fresh-kill pile. He grabbed a mouse and a chaffinch.

He bounded to the nursery. "Sorrelfur! I brought some fresh-kill!" He mewed.

Sorrelfur came out. "Thank you." She croaked.

Sorrelfur sounded, a bit sick. He shrugged and padded to the warriors' den.

Dustfang came to greet him. "I am an equal to you now." He said.

Tigerblaze stared at him. "Okay,"

Dustfang ran toward the entrance of camp.

Tigerblaze sighed and walked into the medicine den.
Ashpool was in there, tending to Grayfoot's wounds.
"Hi," Tigerblaze meowed.

"Hello," She replied, without looking up.

"I need my scratches to get seen to." Tigerblaze said.

"Okay,"

Ashpool finished Grayfoot. She winced a few times before leaving the den.

"That needs some dock leaves." Ashpool mewed.

After Ashpool was done tending to Tigerblaze's wounds, he went to his nest.

"Long day?" The voice was his father, Thornslash.

"Yes,"

"How is life as a warrior?"

"Good,"

"Then it is well then?"

"Yes!"

Thornslash stared at Tigerblaze. "You know, your mother was right. In a blink of an eye, they are already a warrior."

"Right," Tigerblaze said.

Thornslash lifted his chin. "You should rest now."

Tigerblaze agreed, so he curled up in his nest and fell asleep.

He glanced at Dustfang before closing his eyes. The tom was sitting at the entrance, watching out into the stars.

What a cat, he will be a great warrior...

Chapter 2 ~ Shadowfrost

Shadowfrost was stealthily running through the forest. "Its about time to go to LightningClan territory." He growled.

He made it to the border. A small kit was trotting. "What is he doing here?"

The small kit ran across the land, to the border.

Shadowfrost stayed where he was, inspecting the kits' movements.

He spotted a mouse. He crouched, and snuck up on it.

He swiftly pounced and killed it. There was no time for it to struggle, it was over in an instant.

The kit squeaked happily. His ears perked up. "Iciclekit! Iciclekit!"

Shadowfrost spotted a queen tearing toward him.

Iciclekit darted behind a bush. The queen was looking around for him.

"Iciclekit! Come back to camp!" She called.

The kit didn't budge. He glared at the queen.

Suddenly, a warrior came behind her, "Any luck?" He asked.

"No," She replied.

"Lets check Thunderpath, or Rock Hollow!" He suggested.

"Okay," She mewed.

The two padded away, and Iciclekit came out of his hiding place.

The kit had the skills of a dark warrior. He called over to it, "Iciclekit!"

Iciclekit stared around. "Who's there?" He asked.

Shadowfrost came from his hiding place. "I saw you hunt that mouse. Do you want to go back home? Or do you want to come with me."

Iciclekit shook his head. "I heard about the dark warriors. My friend, Icepaw saw one. She said I have the skills of one. I wanted to find a dark warrior. I really want to be one too!"

Shadowfrost streaked across the border and met eyes with the little kit. He lifted his chin. "Do you want to be a dark warrior? I'm one. You can be my apprentice."

Iciclekit's eyes shined. "Okay! Will I be Iciclepaw?"

Shadowfrost nodded. "Yes, my name is Shadowfrost. You are my apprentice, Iciclepaw."

Iciclepaw stared at Shadowfrost. "I'll be a great dark warrior! You'll see!"

"I will." Shadowfrost meowed.

"I'm five moons old. Am I old enough?" Iciclepaw asked.

"You are never too young, or too old to be my apprentice. You're perfect."

Iciclepaw's eyes shined. "We should go, my mother is still looking for me."

Shadowfrost nodded, "Right, lets-"

"Iciclekit!" The queen cried.

The tom was beside her. "You stranger! You stole our kit!" He growled.

Iciclepaw glared at his mother and father. "Amberfeather and Voletuft, I am sick of being a clan cat! This cat here, is going to mentor me. He is going to teach me to be a dark warrior."

Amberfeather gasped. "No! Voletuft, go get Iciclekit!"

Voletuft ran toward Shadowfrost and Iciclepaw.

"Its not Iciclekit, its Iciclepaw."

Iciclepaw lunged at Voletuft and knocked him to the ground.

"You're coming with me right now!" Voletuft ordered.

Iciclepaw's eyes shined with defiance. "No, I will not. I will kill you to get away!"

Amberfeather widened her eyes. "No you wouldn't!"

"Yes I would."

Voletuft grasped Iciclepaw by the scruff.

Iciclepaw squealed in protest, kicking his hind legs.

Shadowfrost narrowed his eyes. "Give him back!"

He lunged at Voletuft, slashing his muzzle.

Voletuft yowled, and Iciclepaw ran free.

"Run!" Shadowfrost yowled.

Shadowfrost swiftly darted away. Iciclepaw broke into a run and was on his tail.

"My poor Iciclekit!" Amberfeather cried.

Shadowfrost didn't feel bad for her. He didn't care, at all.

"This way Iciclepaw." Shadowfrost mewed.

"Okay."

Iciclepaw followed Shadowfrost up a tree. "Its Hunter!" Shadowfrost hissed.

"Get down!"

Iciclepaw stayed where he was, still. "I'm going to kill him." Shadowfrost said. "Stay here."

Iciclepaw nodded.

Shadowfrost leaped and gave a strong blow to Hunter's ear.

The tom lost his balance and fell out off the tree. Hunter flailed his paws in the air, before he hit the the ground, and went limp.

"Broke his neck," Shadowfrost snarled. "Serves him right."

Iciclepaw looked shocked. "Isn't he like you?" He asked.

"He wants to kill me. So does Shade and Darkwind."

"They are your enemies?" Iciclepaw mewed.

"Of course! Now, lets go before a patrol finds us. Lets go deeper in the forest. Voletuft might be looking for us." Shadowfrost muttered.

Chapter 3 ~ Mudpaw

"Mudpaw!" Skyfeather called. Mudpaw, a medicine cat apprentice dashed across the clearing. "Yeah?"

"Help me with Turtlepaw's shoulder." Skyfeather meowed.

Mudpaw padded to Turtlepaw. A few scratches were on her shoulder, and blood welled out of it.
"I should put some dock on that..." Mudpaw murmured.

Mudpaw trotted over to the herb store, and grabbed some dock leaves.

He chewed them up, and got the juice. "This will sting, but it will help your shoulder." Mudpaw meowed.

Turtlepaw winced when Mudpaw dressed her wound with the dock, but said nothing.

"I might need cobweb." Mudpaw said. He reached to grab some, but Skyfeather called his name again.

"Mudpaw!"
"What?"
Skyfeather was crouching over a small scrap of fur. "Its Jaykit. He's dead!"

Mudpaw froze. "Dead?"

"Dead!" Skyfeather repeated.

"No! We can't lose him. Thistlekit and Jaykit were both going to be paws' in a quarter moon!" Foxfur yowled.

"First Emberfur, and now Jaykit!"

Brightstar ran to Skyfeather. "Jaykit is dead. What happened?"

"He died of starvation. We are lacking prey." Skyfeather answered.

"We should send another patrol out for hunting." Brightstar decided.

"Pinefur!"

The tom was chatting with Cometsky. "Yes,"

"We need another hunting patrol. Jaykit died of starvation."

Pinefur understood. "Foxfur, Cricketchirp, Petaltail and Icepaw go on a hunting party."

The warriors and apprentice streaked out of camp.
"We are getting skinny, we are weak." Sandmuzzle complained.

"Silence!" Brightstar growled. "We all know this is a tough time," Brightstar meowed. "And we will come through, because we are LightningClan!"

"LightningClan! LightningClan!" Everyone chanted.

"Much better, we need our wounds healed. Skyfeather and Mudpaw, we thank you."

Mudpaw returned to the medicine den, but saw a bunch of kits wrestling in there.

The herbs were all on the ground. "Skyfeather!" He yelled.

The she-cat came running. "What?"

"Look!" Mudpaw hissed.

Skyfeather saw the kits playing. "Whats going on in here!" Skyfeather demanded.

All of the kits froze. "We wanted to play." Darkkit mewed.

"Why in the medicine den?" Skyfeather asked calmly.

"We didn't know we rolled in here." Owlkit squeaked.

"Yeah, we were playing Warrior." Thistlekit meowed.

Skyfeather glanced outside where Snowkit and Swankit were playing. "Play with Snowkit and Swankit, outside. Where you don't get in trouble."

"Yes Skyfeather." The three kits said quickly.

They stumbled out of the medicine den.
"Kits," Skyfeather said, watching them go.

Applewillow padded in the medicine den. "My belly needs," He paused when he saw all the herbs spread out on the floor. "What happened?"

"Kits," Mudpaw answered. "The herbs are ruined. We need to get some more."

"No, I'll go. There are some left in the herb store. Use what you can." Skyfeather mewed.

"Okay,"

Skyfeather ran out of camp. Mudpaw watched her go, "I have a bellyache." Applewillow mewed.

"Okay, Juniper berries..." Mudpaw grabbed what was left of it, and gave them to Applewillow.

"Eat them, you should rest for now." Mudpaw instructed.

Applewillow nodded. He ran to the warriors' den and disappeared inside.

Mudpaw gave a long sigh. "I need air."

Mudpaw stumbled out of the medicine den. He looked up at the sky, and collapsed right in the middle of camp.

Chapter 4 ~ Stormkit

Stormkit tumbled, falling on top of Mousekit.

"Hey! You can be excited if we are being apprentices today, but don't fall on top of me!" Mousekit squeaked.

Stormkit got off of his brother. "Sorry," he mumbled.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey, may come beneath the DarkRock for a clan meeting." Duskstar meowed.

"Its happening!" Stormkit mewled, running out of the nursery.

"Wait for me!" Mousekit said, charging behind him.

"Today, two kits will become apprentices." Duskstar meowed.

"Mousekit and Stormkit, until you earn your warrior names, you will be known as Mousepaw and Stormpaw. Cloudstep, you will mentor Mousepaw. Please pass all that you have learned to this apprentice."

Cloudstep dipped her head. "I will Duskstar." She touched noses with Mousepaw.

"Tigerblaze, you will mentor Stormpaw. Since you two are brothers, Tigerblaze would be a wise choice to mentor Stormpaw."

Tigerblaze had a shocked look on his face. Noticing what Cloudstep had done, he reached to touch noses with Stormpaw as well.

"Stormpaw! Stormpaw! Mousepaw! Mousepaw!" The clan cheered.

As the meeting ended, Stormpaw excitedly bounced over to Tigerblaze. "What will we do first?" He asked curiously.

"Explore the territory," Tigerblaze meowed, licking a paw.

"Great!" Stormpaw exclaimed.

"Alright, lets get a move on, have you eaten yet?" Tigerblaze asked.

"Not hungry." Stormpaw replied. He was too excited to eat.
When Tigerblaze nodded, he ran out of camp. Stormpaw tried to follow, but he was slow.

"Wait!" He called. Tigerblaze halted, "Sorry, but, we are where the forest is. What can you scent?" He asked.

Stormpaw tasted the air, then looked at Tigerblaze who was staring at him. "Uh, LightningClan scent, and..... a different one I couldn't recognize."

"Thats the scent of a dark warrior," Tigerblaze explained, "but why is it mixed with a dark warrior scent..." Tigerblaze asked himself.

"I don't know," Stormpaw mewed, hearing his mentor mumble to himself.

Tigerblaze signaled Stormpaw to come back to camp. "Duskstar needs to know this." He whispered.

Stormpaw followed him into camp entrance. Sorrelfur was grooming herself. "Back so early, why?"

"We scented LightningClan scents mingling with dark warrior scents. I'm telling Duskstar." Tigerblaze meowed.

"They could be teaming up to attack us!" Harerunner gasped, listening in on the conversation.

"Don't be so sure Harerunner," Grayfoot growled, "LightningClan cats had been becoming dark warriors lately, like Darkwind, the cat exiled from LightningClan."

"I guess you're right." Harerunner mumbled.

"But still, we should tell Duskstar." Tigerblaze interrupted.

"I'll tell him," Flametooth offered.

"Thanks, I'll take Stormpaw out again then," Tigerblaze said, heading out of camp.

Stormpaw hurried after Tigerblaze, as they reached a area where the sun shone through, and small, round pebbles sitting in the sun.

"These are Sun Pebbles. Sit down on these, it will warm your paws."

Stormpaw stepped onto the Sun Pebbles. Tigerblaze was right, these pebbles do warm your paws!

"There is much more than this, we should go." Tallfrost meowed.

As Tigerblaze ran off, Stormpaw clumsily went after him. They reached a small clearing.
"This is the Training Area, otherwise known as Nightstar's Creek." Tigerblaze said.

"Why is is called Nightstar's Creek?" Stormpaw asked.

"Our first leader discovered this place, and it has a river running through it, with a creek going down there."

"Can we go see the creek?"

Tigerblaze grunted, "Fine."

Stormpaw ran through some bushes, leading to the creek. It was beautiful, with lily pads, and flowers growing. Lush trees swayed in the breeze, and and tangled brambles protected the place. He looked around, amazed.

Until, a white kit had jumped down in front of him, showing his teeth. It was a LightningClan cat!
"Who are you?" Stormpaw growled.

"I'm Iciclepaw, Shadowfrost told me to get rid of you. You're just a new apprentice, i'm only finishing my training." Iciclepaw hissed.

"But, you're a kit!" Stormpaw retorted.

"I will win this, I will shred you."

"No, i'm bigger than you, you will be heading for the hills when i'm finished with you." Stormpaw snarled, revealing his teeth.

"Size does not matter." Iciclepaw replied.

Without warning, Iciclepaw lunged at Stormpaw, slicing his cheek.

Stormpaw winced, then he shot forward, sending Iciclepaw flying.

Iciclepaw landed on his paws, then used all his strength to bring Stormpaw down.

He did, then threw Stormpaw into the creek. It was deeper then he thought, Stormpaw flailed, and splashed in the water.
"Tigerblaze..... help!" He gurgled.

Iciclepaw's ear twitched, "Calling for your mentor, huh? Weakling." He climbed a tree, and jumped away.

As Tigerblaze came, Stormpaw had closed his eyes, hoping he would survive.

Chapter 5 ~ Iciclepaw

Iciclepaw left the tom to drown. He knew that Shadowfrost would make him a full dark warrior when he shreds a NightClan apprentice. Iciclepaw chuckled to himself.
"Well done apprentice," Shadowfrost meowed.

"Will I become a dark warrior?" Iciclepaw asked.
"A dark warrior has a half-moon long training. It has been the half-moon. You may become a dark warrior." Shadowfrost said.

"What name will I have?" Iciclepaw asked.

"Iciclepaw, from this day forward, you will be known as Iciclestorm. You have proven to be a true dark warrior, strong on the outside, dark at heart. I have been thinking about Tigerblaze becoming a dark warrior." Shadowfrost said.

"Really? The mentor of that weak apprentice I just beat?" Iciclestorm asked.

"Yes, he has the skill of a dark warrior. His father almost killed me." Shadowfrost meowed.

"He did?"

"Yes, we should add Patchpaw to our team next. Patchpaw is a ally I had when I was only just becoming a dark warrior. I was still Shadowpaw then."

"She sounds like a good ally." Iciclestorm said.

"Yeah, she is.... with her striking heather eyes.... her beautiful golden patches...." Shadowfrost's eyes had a glittered.

"You like her!" Iciclestorm meowed.

"N-no..." Shadowfrost stuttered.

"You like Patchpaw, you like Patchpaw!" Iciclestorm teased.

"Shut up! I'm your mentor. Respect me before I kill you." Shadowfrost growled.

Iciclestorm rolled his eyes. "Whatever,"

"Lets, just go. Patchpaw and Tigerblaze will be friends, not foes. Maybe we could go meet them tonight." Shadowfrost meowed.

Iciclestorm flicked his ear with annoyance. "How are we supposed to do that?"

"When Patchpaw is on a patrol, I could talk to her. She could trick Tigerblaze into coming here to meet us." Shadowfrost explained.

"Fine, lets just do it."

Finally when Patchpaw was on a patrol, Shadowfrost was speaking to her. He had explained what was going on, Patchpaw understood.

"Got it." She said.

"Good, meet in Nightstar's Creek, where his apprentice drowned."

"You mean Stormpaw? He might be dead right now." Patchpaw growled.

Shadowfrost rolled his eyes. "Just help me."

"Okay, I'll be on it."

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Iciclestorm and Shadowfrost were waiting in the tree. They had a excellent view of the creek.

Tigerblaze came charging through, his eyes burned with anger. "Where are they? I'll kill them!"

"Calm down. I led you here." Patchpaw explained.

"T-then why am I here?" Tigerblaze asked.

"We are here to make an offer." Shadowfrost said, jumping down from the tree.

"What offer? Who are you?"

"I'm Shadowfrost, i'm going to help you to get out of this mess. Leave your clan, leave your mother, your family."

"No! I don't want to leave." Tigerblaze hissed.

"You know you are the son of a former dark warrior?" Shadowfrost asked.

Iciclestorm stared at Tigerblaze. The tom had a look on his face, full of dread.

"My father wouldn't be a monster like you." Tigerblaze snarled.

"He was. He almost killed me. We'll just have to ask him. The secret he wanted to keep all his life. Darkwind knows, she was an ally of his."

Tigerblaze looked at his paws. "I have rage," he murmured.

"I'm going to get revenge. My father, will pay for the lies." Tigerblaze whispered.

"Good. Now, lets join, and kill Darkwind and her allies! Patchpaw, you with us?" Shadowfrost asked.

"Yes, but in return, i'd like my dark warrior name." Patchpaw replied.

"Fine. Patchpaw, from this day forward, you will be known as Patchtuft."

Patchtuft dipped her head. "Shadowfrost, I've been thinking about this for awhile. I want to be mates with you."

Shadowfrost agreed. He grinned, "We could have more dark warriors with my blood. My own kits. This is perfect."

"I've heard Darkwind has more allies now." Iciclestorm piped up.

"Then we need more dark warriors then we can get." Shadowfrost growled. "Tigerblaze, your apprentice and his brother will join us too."

Tigerblaze nodded. "I'll stay in camp for one more day. I'll try to convince Mousepaw and Stormpaw to come with me."

Iciclestorm's paws pricked with excitement. He was going to have more allies!

Chapter 6 ~ Tigerblaze

"Stormpaw, wake up." Tigerblaze softly meowed.

Stormpaw groaned. "The white kit, he... he... shredded me."

"Yes I know. Iciclestorm I presume. We are joining the dark warriors, you must come with me, brother. Our father has lied to us. He lied to me, you, and Mousepaw."

Stormpaw sat up. "What are you talking about? Thornslash was never a dark warrior."

"Lies!" Tigerblaze growled.

"So, he has lied to all of us? Sorrelfur, and you too?" Stormpaw asked.

"Yes! He must be punished." Tigerblaze replied, unsheathing his claws.

"I can't believe it! He told me every time he went hunting, but was a dark warrior the whole time. I'm going to spread his blood all over the territory, and tell the clan he was lying." Stormpaw hissed.

"Our brother will join us too. We will become dark warriors. But, we can't come back to the clan. We have already betrayed them at that time. We will stay in the shadows, and hunt for our survival." Tigerblaze meowed.

"I'll do that. I'll sacrifice, because... for the good of the clan. They can't have dark warriors in clans. Thats why we're leaving, and never coming back, right?"

"Yes. We must leave soon." Tigerblaze snarled.

"Okay. I'll tell Mousepaw then." Stormpaw mewed.

"Good idea."

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After Stormpaw convinced Mousepaw to become a dark warrior, they decided to leave the next day.

"Hey Patchpaw!" Darkflash called.

Patchtuft snarled, then looked down. Every time she was called Patchpaw, she'd get angry.

"What?" She hissed.

"Whats up with you today? I called your name, and it looks like you want to rip me to shreds." Darkflash said.

Patchtuft relaxed. "Sorry. I need some fresh air. I'll just go."

"Sure. But be back before sunset. We're going hunting." Darkflash called.

"Right." Patchtuft darted out of camp.

Yep, already going to Shadowfrost I see. Tigerblaze thought grinning.

"Hello son."

Right as he said that word, Tigerblaze almost lunged for the throat.

"Hi, Thornslash." Tigerblaze mumbled, keeping back his anger.

"I just went hunting, and I caught a rabbit and a thrush! Isn't that great? Tigerblaze?" Thornslash nudged Tigerblaze in the shoulder.

"Tell me the truth." Tigerblaze demanded.

"What truth?" Thornslash asked.

"The one about *you* always hunting? Sounds familiar?" Tigerblaze growled.

"W-what...? I d-don't know what you're talking about." Thornslash stuttered.

"I can see you're lying. Just like you were doing my whole life, from Tigerkit, to Tigerpaw, and now Tigerblaze. All lies!" Tigerblaze snarled, showing his teeth.

"I haven't! Believe me, Tigerblaze."

"I'm not! Shadowfrost told me the whole thing." Tigerblaze replied.

"Shadow who?" Sorrelfur mewed.

Thornslash gave Tigerblaze a look, telling him not to do it.

"Thornslash, my father has lied to you. He is a dark warrior!" Tigerblaze shouted.

Everyone in camp froze. Duskstar padded into the middle of camp, then stared at Thornslash. "Is this true?" He asked.

Thornslash lowered his head in shame, then answered. "Yes." He mumbled.

"I banish you from the the clan Thornslash. No dark warrior deserves to be in a clan." Duskstar snorted with disgust.

"If you find him out in our territory, don't hesitate to kill him." Hailfoot announced.

"Leave!" Sorrelfur spat.

Stormpaw and Mousepaw glared at their father with pure hatred. "You traitor!"

"Traitor!" The clan hissed.

Thornslash looked at the ground, then ran out of camp.

"Make sure he leaves. Flametooth, Darkflash and Ryepaw, go follow him." Hailfoot ordered.

Flametooth and Darkflash got to their paws. "Alright."

Ryepaw followed Flametooth and Darkflash out of camp.

Tigerblaze beckoned his tail toward Mousepaw and Stormpaw. "I think it would be a good time to leave during night."

"No one would see us leave." Stormpaw mewed.

Mousepaw nodded, then grinned.

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Right at moonhigh, Tigerblaze got up. Carefully moving between his clanmates, he trotted into the apprentices' den.

Mousepaw was sleeping, but Stormpaw wasn't, getting up. He nudged Mousepaw, then the tom jerked awake.

They slowly made it to camp entrance, until a familiar voice had stopped them dead in their tracks.

"You! What are you doing?" Dustfang growled.

Tigerblaze's fur bristled with rage. Dustfang glared at them, unsheathing his claws.

"Traitor! You're running away, aren't you?" Dustfang hissed.

"Yes I am. Its for the good of the clan!" Tigerblaze replied coldly.

"Yeah, because we want to get rid of dark warriors, like you three!"

Tigerblaze lunged at Dustfang, then bit into his throat.

Dustfang laid still, the blood gushing out.

"Alright, lets go. That piece of mangefur doesn't deserve to live anyway." Tigerblaze snarled.

Tigerblaze gotten to Nightstar's Creek, then saw Shadowfrost.

"Glad you came." He meowed.

Patchtuft stood beside him, as well as Iciclestorm.

"Lets get this over with. I'll find Darkwind and Thornslash. Then I'll

kill them myself!" Tigerblaze growled.

"Calm down, we have more members." Shadowfrost said.

"Who?" Tigerblaze asked.

"This kitty."

Shadowfrost nudged a brown tom. "Mudpaw? You stole him, right?"

"No, no, no. He came to us, you see. He had collapsed in his own camp. Tired from working his tail off, he came to us."

Mudpaw stood up. "Yes. I will serve you, as long I as live. As a medicine cat, of course."

"Okay. But first, we need to sleep." Tigerblaze mewed.

"Yes, I know. We have kitnapped someone, actually. From LightningClan."

"Are you crazy?" Tigerblaze asked.

"No, I am not. Two kits, one named Swankit, the other Darkkit." Shadowfrost meowed.

"Really? Kits?"

"My sister." Iciclestorm hissed.

"We're going to raise them as our own." Shadowfrost explained.

"It only takes a half-moon to train." Patchtuft added.

"Half-moon? So Stormpaw and Mousepaw will-"

"Yes." Shadowfrost interrupted.

Patchtuft carried over the two scared, frightened kits.

Darkkit squealed, and cried. Swankit ran over to Iciclestorm.

"Iciclekit! Come home." Swankit squeaked softly.

Iciclestorm was actually one time bigger. "My name is Iciclestorm now. I hope that you grow to be like me."

"A dark warrior?" Swankit asked.

Shadowfrost silenced her. "Swankit, and Darkkit, you two will be known as Swanpaw and Darkpaw. Patchtuft, you will mentor Swanpaw, and I will mentor Darkpaw. Tigerblaze, you will be with your regular apprentice, and Iciclestorm with Mousepaw."

"A kit, mentoring me!" Mousepaw yelled.

"Silence! I could strip a leader's nine lives with a special death blow, want me to do it on you?" Iciclestorm growled.

Mousepaw shook his head, then stared at the ground.

Was this really a good idea? Or was I focusing too much on getting revenge?